

Prætorum & Sulpitia Ecclesie
OR, THE
Distressed State of the *Greek* CHURCH

Humbly Represented in a

LETTER

TO HER

Late Majesty Queen *ANNE*,

FROM THE

PATRIARCH OF ALEXANDRIA;

K. Samuel
By the Hands of

ARSENIUS Archbishop of *Thebais*,
Now Residing in *London*.

3 Epistle of St. John, 5, 6.

*Beloved, thou doest faithfully whatsoever thou doest to the Bre-
thren, and to Strangers;
Which have born Witness of thy Charity before the Church; whom
if thou bring forward on their Journey after a Godly Sort, thou
shalt do well.*

L O N D O N:

Printed in the YEAR MDCCXV.

Lectures & Sermons Preached at the

OF THE

Diffused State of the Greek Church

John Smith

See Ministry of the Church

FROM THE

PATRISTIC

**MUSEUM
BRITAN
NICVM**

ARSENAL & Repository of the

of the

which have been the Church before the Church; when
if they bring forward on their journey after a long time, then
let us see

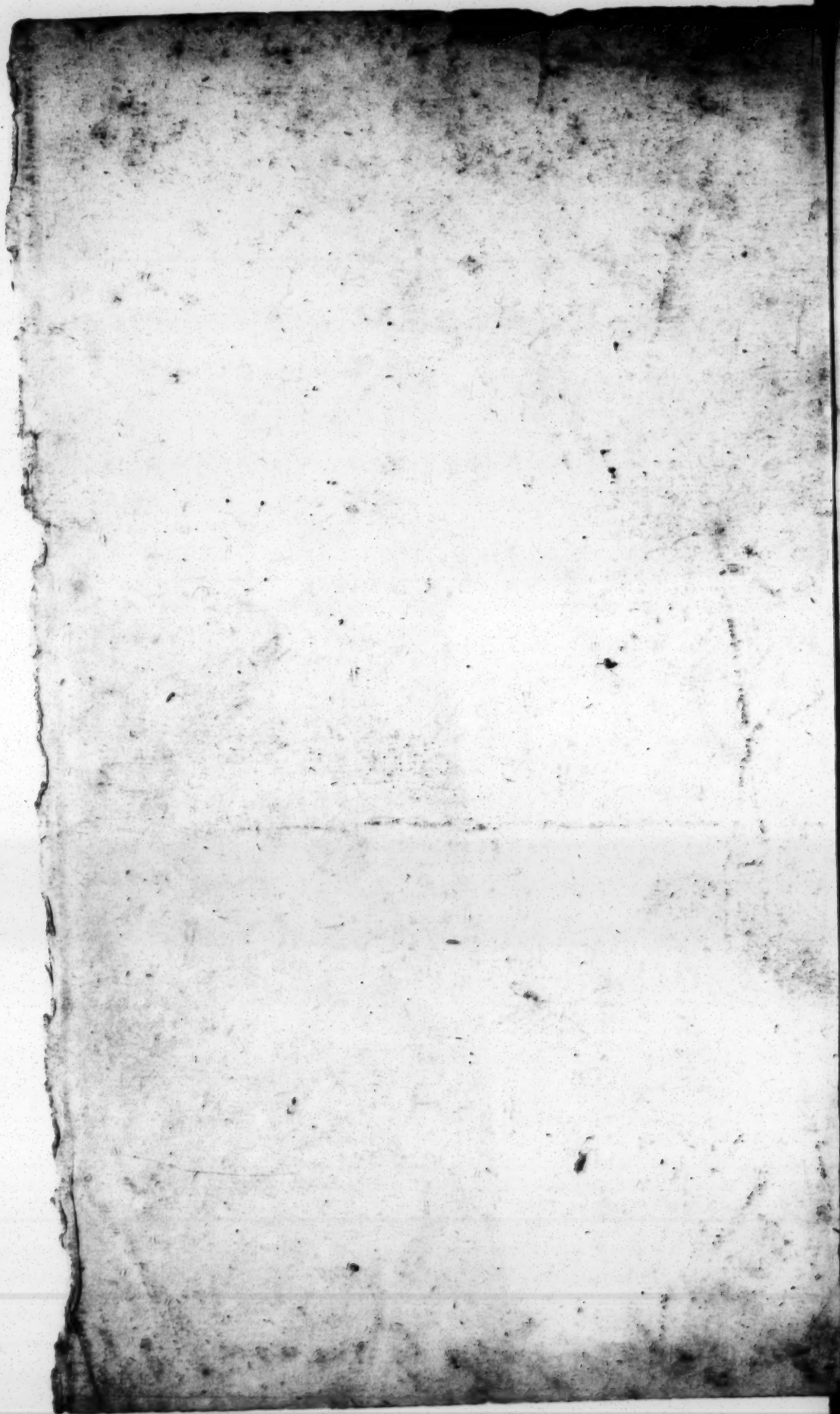
LONDON:

Printed in the Year MDCCXV

2.

2-8

Given me by Dickson



TO THE

Most Noble, most Reverend, Honourable and Worthy, the Nobility, Clergy, Gentry and Commons, Citizens or Strangers in the Kingdom of *England*, whose Hearts God hath touched with Divine Love and Charity, to Commiserate the Distresses of their Afflicted Brethren,

The Humble PETITION and REQUEST of *Arsenius* Archbishop of *Thebais*, in *Egypt*.

SHewETH,

THAT your PETITIONER was sent in the Year of our Lord 1712, by the most Reverend Father *Samuel*, by Divine Mercy, Patriarch of *Alexandria*, from Grand *Cairo*, in *Egypt*, to represent to the Protestant Princes and States in *Europe*, the truly Deplorable Circumstances of the *Greek* Church, under the severe Tyranny and Oppression of the *Turks*, Blasphemers of our most Holy Religion; and to Sol-

licit a Sum of Money, for the Relief of that Distressed Church, professing the same Faith in our common Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, who has commanded, That when any Member of his Mystical Body suffers, the rest shall have Sympathy with it.

Your PETITIONER, with his Cause, was recommended to Her late Sacred Majesty Queen *ANNE*, and the Venerable Fathers of this Church, (which for Orthodoxy and Piety, is Famed over the Earth) by the Credential and Supplicatory Letters of the said most Holy Father, the Patriarch, and the Pious Clergy of the Greek Church, and the Voluntary Testimonials of the *English* Consuls at Grand *Cairo* and *Tripoly*; who are sensible with what Bowels of Love and Tenderneſs, we Receive and Embrace all the Christians of this Nation, that Live amongst us.

The Charge and Expence of so long a Journey, with our Holy Brethren, the Vicar, Deacons, and other necessary Domesticks, has been a considerable Addition to those Incumbrances of Debts, which we hoped, by our Travel, to have removed; for we have, by our long involuntary Stay here, and the Disappointments we have met with, been obliged, for our necessary Subsistence, on the most ordinary Food, (being Nine in Family) to Contract Debts on the Credit of what we expected to receive.

But the Posture of Publick Affairs, since our Arrival here, has been a Hinderance to our obtaining that Relief, which (from the liberal Bounty of this Charitable Nation to other oppressed Churches) we might otherwise hope to have received in a Way suitable to our Condition, which is now rendred more Miserable and Afflicted, by being so far from Home, and not only deprived of all Hopes of a Publick Supply for our Distressed Church in *Egypt*, but so very Poor, that we have not wherewith to pay our Debts here, or carry us out of the Country.

We

We therefore humbly Intreat and Implore, in the Name of Christ, the Charitable and Compassionate Consideration of all to whom this shall be shown, to Pity and Relieve us in these our Indigent Circumstances, to enable us, before the Winter comes on, to return to our Native Country, where we shall ever Pray, That God will Establish the Blessings of Tranquility, Peace and Happiness, on this Nation; and with everlasting Favour, Reward those Charitable Souls therein, that have refreshed us with their seasonable Alms, and contributed to deliver us out of our Distress; *For Blessed are the Merciful, they shall obtain Mercy.*

London, August 18.
1755



ΣΗΛΩΝΙΚΗ ΠΟΛΙΤΗΝΩΝ ΕΠΙΣΤΟΛΗ
ΑΡΧΕΣ ΝΕΩΝ ΣΟΛΙΔΩΝ

God's spirit informing and strengthening them. and other Endowments, and who have the Influence of **To** Report, who are full of Wisdom, Understanding, and great Authority, to look out for all those who are of **Value** Kings. And especially since it is the Custom of A Christian, discerning, or that Man in his Palace, shall stand Holy Letter, in the presence, calls Discerning; (see James) and indeed, are only fit to Write to Kings, whom the have behaved themselves in it with becoming Decency: been admitted to a near Attendance upon Kings, and noticed the Humane of their Condition: who have is the Talent only of those, who know by Experience that their Merit and Dignity deserve, that they should be raised ones still to becoming Words, in just Figures, and Expressions to Princes fairly to their Station, in

We

To the most Gracious, Serene, Mighty, Invincible, and Christian Princess, ANNE, by the Grace of God, Queen of the Flourishing Kingdom of Great-Britain;

Samuel, by Divine Mercy, Bishop and Patriarch of *Alexandria*, wisheth Strength, Trophies and Victory over her Enemies, Length of Days, Profound Peace, Undisturbed Settlement, Prosperous Health, and all other Happiness.

TO Write to Princes suitably to their Station, in becoming Words, in just Figures, and Expressions fit for Royal Ears, to raise ones Stile to that Pitch their Merit and Dignity deserve, is the Talent only of those, who know by Experience, the Eminence of their Condition; who have been admitted to a near Attendance upon Kings, and have behaved themselves in it, with becoming Decency: Such, indeed, are only fit to Write to Kings, whom the Holy Letter, in the *Proverbs*, calls Discerning; (*λογισμοι*) *A Diligent, Discerning, or Acute Man in his Business, shall stand before Kings*. And especially, since it is the Custom of Regal Authority, to look out for all those who are of good Report, who are full of Wisdom, Understanding, and other Endowments, and who have the Influence of God's Spirit Informing and Strengthening them.

We

We, therefore, upon this Account, are very diffident of Approaching, where there is such Danger of betraying Rashness and Indiscretion, lest we should condemn our selves for it; and should rather humbly submit to a safer, and a more convenient Silence: But Your Great and Royal Name, (**MOST ILLUSTRIOUS QUEEN**) is Proclaimed through the whole Earth; for the Holy Spirit hath so blest You with his Influence, as to make You appear the most precious Repository of all Vertues.

You, therefore, having so inexhausted a Fund of Ornaments, and *we being unequal to all Encomiums and Panegyrics, this only is left us to say,* That every perfect Gift cometh from Above, from the Father of Lights.

For notwithstanding You are so Adorned from Above, with Purple Crowns, and Regal Scepters, though You are so much Superior to all others in Power, yet you give every one Opportunity of Admiring and Extolling, (besides those Gifts from Heaven) your own acquired Excellencies, the abundant Warmth of your Piety, and the almost infinite Extent of your Heavenly Charity.

We, therefore, who are entrusted with the Government of our mean **CHURCH** of **CHRIST**, the most Ancient Patriarchal See of **ALEXANDRIA**, the Holy and Apostolical Chair of the Apostle and Evangelist **St. MARK**, having heard the Reports of your Royal and Illustrious Qualities, and being confirmed in the Belief of them, by convincing Proofs, how can we forbear to venture, or rather presume to take this Opportunity, of boldly flying to the plentiful Fountain of your Goodness. And we are in hopes that this our Presumption, will not be misinterpreted, but received with the cheerful Compassion of Your Fam'd and Illustrious **Majesty**; and if it be not wholly such as it ought, yet it may be taken for the Expression of our fervent Prayers, and Patriarchal Benediction, through the Grace and Power of the Holy Spirit. For the Glorious and

Excellent

Excellent Report of the Actions done by You in our Times, have already reached the Parts of our *Aegyptian Arabia*, that you give every-where Comfort to the Helpless, Clothing to the Naked, Nourishment to the Poor, Support to the Needy, Relief to the Distrest, Help to the Afflicted, and Liberty to the Prisoners, we are told that You are the Pillar of Holy Churches, the Encourager of Religious Foundations, the Benefactor of Bishops, and the Ornament of Holy Sees.

Such, and many other Pious Acts of Compassion, a loud and swift-winged Fame, hath reported you the Author; all which, we having Treasured up in faithful Memories, do most sincerely look up to the First Cause, to the All-seeing Governor of the World, to the Giver of good Things, the Everlasting God, that by his Prescience foresaw you, most Religious, most Mighty and Wise of Name, (*a Name full of Grace*) that bestow'd upon you so many Divine Graces, and hath incessantly continued them: For which bright Excellencies, that shine like the Sun Beams, and pass through the whole Earth, You have been thought worthy of Royal Purple, and the other Esigias of Majesty, and have heaped up such Tributes of Praises and Acclamations, as few besides have received. And we, upon these Accounts, being much Embolden'd, do send, to Prostrate himself before Your Sacred Throne, our Brother in Christ, the most Holy Father *Arsenius*, Metropolitan of *Thebes*, Exarch of the Provinces on the other Side, of the *Nile*, Subject to our most Holy See of *Alexandria*: And with him, the most Reverend *Gennadius*, Abbot of the Monks of that our See, with their Deacons and Attendants. And we, in the First Place, humbly desire, that they may meet with a Christian Reception, and Favourable Countenance, from Your Majesty's known Goodness; for they represent this Holy See, and our unworthy Selves, and have been, from their Youth, Faithful and True Ministers of this Holy Church of Christ.

Secondly

Secondly, That we here may be admitted to a Share of the Liberal Gifts of the Immense Charities and Bounties of Your Royal Hand; for our present Grievance is very great, our Distress is inexpressible, and our Misery the greatest possible. By which we our selves are in Danger of being utterly Overwhelmed; and withal, this our Patriarchal See, that in the midst of so great Infidelity of the *Arabian* Parts, and especially those adjoining to *Egypt*, hath shined like a bright Star, and hath hitherto Maintained and Preached up Christianity, must necessarily be Extinguished.

Nor yet can we Charge all this upon the Malice or Envy of the Infidels, but the Grievance was first raised by those, who pretended to be of our own Profession, and by these have we been brought into this miserable Condition, into deplorable Straits, and a grievous Debt, of above * Sixty Purpes, which we have borrowed, * 20000 Dollars upon high Interest, of Infidels and Foreigners.

Our Consecrated Plate, our Patriarchal Habits, the Goods and Utensils of the Church, of all Kinds, have been either Destroy'd or Sold, and the small Remainder of them, are still in Pledge for this Debt.

But the Evidences and Testimonials in our Brothers Hands, will explain at large the Original of our great Oppression, and present deplorable Condition, and themselves will do it more fully, by Word of Mouth; for we thought it improper, whilst we beg Your Majesty's Grace and Compassion, to tire Your Sacred Ears with a long Story, though it be such as may justify both Tears and Complaints.

We, therefore, lift up our mournful Voice, with Eyes and Hands, to God, our Universal Lord, by whom Kings Rule, and Princes Govern the Earth, and with a Sorrowful Soul, we beseech the Eternal, the Self-existent, the Immortal and Divine Power, to Preserve and Confirm, to distant Ages, the Scepters of Your Illustrious Kingdom, and Your self, most Serene Queen *ANNE*, (by Name Gracious)

cious) the Basis and Foundation of Religion, the Invincible Fortrefs of the Orthodox Faith, and the Divine Protection of the Church of Christ. But suffer us, most Compassionate LADY, to enjoy your Bounty, and Royal Protection; for the Sake of CHRIST JESUS, our Common Saviour and Lord, suffer us not to be so Afflicted, Opprest, and wearied out by continual Calamities, to part with even our Hopes, and by our Disappointment, fall into Dejection and Despondency.

Follow, MADAM, the Example of our Merciful Master; reach out a protecting Hand, Succour us in Distress, raise up a Calm and Serene Harbour to us, in this Shipwreck'd Condition, and by Your Royal Commands, most Illustrious Princess, Enjoin and Require those about your Person, the most Noble Princes and Lords of Your Council, wheresoever they be, and all other Charitable Persons, both of Clergy and Laity, to bestow upon us Assistance and Compassion, giving our Brethren, by Your Testimonial Letters, free Access to your several Incorporate Cities, Islands and Provinces.

And we having thus obtain'd Support, being Comforted by your Bounty, and Delivered out of Insupportable Misery, into Ease and Quiet, will unanimously return your Anointed Majesty, our best Tribute of Thanks, and incessantly send up our Songs of Praise to God, to whom be Worship and Glory, to endless Ages, *Amen.* Given at our Patriarchal Seat in *Egypt*, in the Year of our Redemption, 1712, February 25, the Fifth of the Indiction.

Your Sacred Majesty's most Humble Servant,

and Zealous Votary to God,

**SAMUEL, by Divine Mercy,
Patriarch of Alexandria.**

Grand Viceroy as Successor to the Right Reverend Gerasimo

of the Right Reverend Samuel, Greek Patriarch of Alexandria, Residing in this City, to give Testimony of what has passed, relating to his Person, since his Accession to the Patriarchal Dignity; we do, from our own Knowledge, as Residing upon the Place, and being from Day to Day informed, Testify to All, to whom these Presents may come, That the Right Reverend Gerasimo, late Greek Patriarch of Alexandria, finding himself, through Age and Distempers, contracted in his Voyage to Walachia, &c. incapable any longer to Officiate, as being almost continually obliged to keep his Bed, and being desirous to lay down the Patriarchal Dignity, he did, in the Presence of the Greek Clergy of this Place, Alexandria, Damietta, &c. willingly Renounce it. Whereupon the said Clergy, and the Principal Persons of that Nation, did unanimously Elect, the Present Right Reverend Samuel, at that Time Archbishop of Libya, to Succeed him; and he was, according to the Custom of this Place, afterwards publicly confirmed therein by the Pascha, &c. Some Time after which, being designed for Constantinople, Moldavia, Walachia, &c. for to gather some Charity toward the Support of his Church; he, in order thereto, visited several Places within his Jurisdiction, and then proceeded to Alexandria to Embark: But while he was there, waiting for a Conveyance, he received Letters from Constantinople, with Advice, that one Cosmo, formerly Archbishop of Mount Sinai, had, by the Force of Money, procured himself to be invested by the

WE William Farrington, Consul for Her Most Sacred MAJESTY, of Great-Britain, &c. in Cairo, and all the Kingdom of Egypt; being requested by the Right Reverend Samuel, Greek Patriarch of Alexandria, Residing in this City, to give Testimony of what has passed, relating to his Person, since his Accession to the Patriarchal Dignity; we do, from our own Knowledge, as Residing upon the Place, and being from Day to Day informed, Testify to All, to whom these Presents may come, That the Right Reverend Gerasimo, late Greek Patriarch of Alexandria, finding himself, through Age and Distempers, contracted in his Voyage to Walachia, &c. incapable any longer to Officiate, as being almost continually obliged to keep his Bed, and being desirous to lay down the Patriarchal Dignity, he did, in the Presence of the Greek Clergy of this Place, Alexandria, Damietta, &c. willingly Renounce it. Whereupon the said Clergy, and the Principal Persons of that Nation, did unanimously Elect, the Present Right Reverend Samuel, at that Time Archbishop of Libya, to Succeed him; and he was, according to the Custom of this Place, afterwards publicly confirmed therein by the Pascha, &c. Some Time after which, being designed for Constantinople, Moldavia, Walachia, &c. for to gather some Charity toward the Support of his Church; he, in order thereto, visited several Places within his Jurisdiction, and then proceeded to Alexandria to Embark: But while he was there, waiting for a Conveyance, he received Letters from Constantinople, with Advice, that one Cosmo, formerly Archbishop of Mount Sinai, had, by the Force of Money, procured himself to be invested by the

Grand Visier, as Successor to the Right Reverend *Gerasimo*, in the Patriarchal Seat, and that he was quickly to follow with Commands, &c. to the *Greek Nation*, to acknowledge him as such. Whereupon the said Right Reverend *Samuel*, was obliged to return up here, to consult with the *Greek Clergy*, and Heads of that Nation, what were the proper Methods to be followed in such a Conjunction; and they Agreed, That he ought by no Means, to suffer himself to be deposed by his Adversary, but endeavour to baffle his Designs, by giving to the *Pasha*, and other Commanders, what might be necessary. Quickly after arrived the said *Cosmo*, bringing with him Commands, &c. directed to the *Pasha*, &c. to put him in Possession of the Patriarchal Seat: So that the Right Reverend *Samuel* was, to maintain himself in his Station, obliged to spend large Sums of Money; to procure which, (by the Power entrusted him with, by the *Greek Clergy*, and Heads of the Nation,) he was forced to Sell a great many of the Vessels, &c. belonging to the Church, and many more to put in Pawn, which has brought the said Church considerably in Debt; to retrieve which, having resolved to send several Persons into several Parts of *Chriftendom*, to procure what they can of Charitable Contributions, We do, at the Desire of the Right Reverend *Samuel*, accompany them with this our Attestation, Signed with our own Hand, and Sealed with the Seal of our *Cancellaria*. Dated in *Cairo*, the Twenty-second Day of February, 1711.

We



W *E William Farrington*, Consul for His Most Sacred
MAJESTY of Great-Britain, &c. in *Cairo*, and
 all the Kingdom of *Egypt*, to All to whom these
 Presents may come, Greeting. The Original of
 the Foregoing, which was delivered into the Hands of
 the Reverend *Arsenio*, Archbishop of *Thebais*, being, as he
 has informed, lost, the Right Reverend *Samuel*, Greek Pa-
 triarch of *Alexandria*, being gone to *Constantinople*, we do,
 at the Request of his Deputy, and the Elders of the *Greek*
 Church, confirm the Preceeding to be a true Copy: And
 do hereby further Testify, That the Fathers of the said
 Church, have, on all Occasions, as well here as at *Alex-*
andria, been ready to Officiate at the Burial of any Person
 of the *British* Nation; as also to Receive into their Con-
 vent at *Alexandria*, and take Care of any Person Infected
 with the Plague, give Bills of Health, when desired, to
 any *British* Ship bound for *Christendom*; and afford what
 other Assistance has been required of them. Dated in
Cairo, the Eighth Day of February, 1713.

(E.S.)
 Benjamin Farrington

William Farrington.

Benjamin

**Benjamin Lodington, Agent and Consul for
Her Britannick Majesty in this City and
Kingdom of Tripoly, in Barbary.**

THESE are to Certify, That the Bearer, the Re-
T verend *Arsenio* of the Greek Nation, and Arch-
bishop of *Thebais*, with his Companion, Father
Gennadio, President of *Alexandria*, and Attendance,
being sent forth on this their intended Voyage for *Europe*,
by the Right Reverend *Samuel*, Patriarch of *Alexandria*,
to Gather in and Collect what Charity-Money good Chri-
stians may be pleased to give, towards the Relief of their
Distressed Church in *Egypt*, being under the Tyranny of
the *Mahomitans*: And accordingly, I recommend him to
the Favour and Courtesy of all good People, before whom
these Presents may come. Given under my Hand and Seal,
in *Tripoly, Barbary*, the Fifteenth Day of *August*, 1712.

(L.S.)

Benjamin Lodington,
A. and C.

John

John Hieronymo Waldeck, Consul for their
High and Mightinesses the States-General of
the *United Netberlands*, &c.

THESE are to Certify to All, and in Particular the
Subjects of the High and Mighty States, That the
Bearer hereof, the most Reverend Father *Arsenio*,
Grecian Archbishop of *Thebais*, together with his Com-
panion, Father *Gennadio*, President of *Alexandria*, in *Egypt*,
and their Attendants, Travelling into *England*, and after
that to *Holland*, on their important Affairs, having re-
quested this Testimony, we heartily and sincerely recom-
mend them to Your Friendship, and Charitable Assistance
in every Thing they may stand in Need of; which we
shall ever thankfully acknowledge, as done to our selves.
Given at *Tunis*, the 3^d of *October*, 1712.

(L.S.)

Johan. Hieronymo Waldeck,
Consolo.



Extra

Extract of a Letter from the Clergy of the Church of *Alexandria*, Dated at *Grand Cairo*, in *Egypt*, February 20. 1715. to the most Reverend *Arsenius* Archbishop of *Thebais*, at *London*.

We have received your Two Letters, one for the most Reverend Patriarch *Samuel*, the other for the Clergy, Dated the 29th of July, 1714, which came to our Hands the 23d of January, 1715. But the most Holy Patriarch being Departed the 21st of September, for *Constantinople*, we were obliged to open them, in which we find your Desire of his Holiness's commendatory Letters for your Friends; which in his Absence, we have thought proper to send you one for the other for - - - as you requested of him.

The most Reverend *Cosmo*, has renounced all Title and Pretence to the Patriarchal Throne of *Alexandria*, by Ecclesiastical Deeds, Signed with his own Hand, (as of Right belonging to *Samuel*) and a short Time after his Renunciation, he was duly Elected Patriarch of *Constantinople*; upon which he wrote Letters to our Patriarch, inviting him to come thither, to Establish a firm Peace and Friendship. This being the necessary Cause of his Absence, we have sent the Letters you desire, Signed by all the Prelates and Clergy of this Church, as also a new Certificate from the *English* Consul here.

F I N I S.

